

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending. An Office Action mailed May 24, 2004 rejected Claims 1-8 and 28, and allowed Claims 9-20. By way of this Amendment, Applicants hereby amend Claims 1, 2, 21, and 22 and cancel Claims 3 and 23. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-8 and 21-28 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants hereby amend Claims 1, 2, 21, and 22 in order to overcome the noted objections, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Applicant submits that Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 21, 22, and 24-28 are now in condition for allowance.


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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims of the pending application are now in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, allowance, and early passage through issuance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' agent listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

2/23/05
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Michelle J. Carman

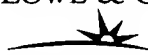
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